UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60604

DATE: JAN 17 2020

SUBJECT: CLEAN AIR ACT INSPECTION REPORT
Cerro Flow Products, LLC, Sauget, Illinois

FROM: Karina Kuc, Environmental Scientist
AECAB (IL/IN)

THRU: Natalie Topinka, Acting Section Chief
AECAB (IL/IN)

TO: File

BASIC INFORMATION

Facility Name: Cerro Flow Products, LLC

Facility Location: 3000 Mississippi Ave, Sauget, IL 62206

Date of Inspection: January 8, 2020

EPA Inspector(s):
1. Karina Kuc, Environmental Scientist
2. Luke Hullinger, Environmental Engineer
3. Daniel Heins, Environmental Scientist

Other Attendees
1. Mike Staublin, Safety Manager – Cerro Flow Products, LLC
2. Steven Blair, Director of Operations – Cerro Flow Products, LLC
3. Robert Claywell, Jr., Senior Project Engineer – Cerro Flow Products, LLC

Contact Email Address: mstaublin@cerroflow.com

Purpose of Inspection: To determine compliance with the Clean Air Act

Facility Type: Copper tube manufacturing

Arrival Time: 2:30 pm
Departure Time: 3:20 pm

Inspection Type:

☒ Unannounced Inspection

☐ Announced Inspection

OPENING CONFERENCE

☒ Credentials Presented

☒ CBI warning to facility provided

The following information was obtained verbally from Cerro Flow Products, LLC (Cerro Flow) representatives unless otherwise noted.

Process Description:
Cerro Flow manufactures copper tubing for plumbing, industrial, HVAC, and refrigeration end use. The process begins with heating copper ingots in a gas-fired furnace until pliable. The heated ingot enters an extrusion press and is extruded to pipe. The pipe is then pulled through a series of dies to reduce its size to the desired diameter. Workers use small quantities of alcohol and mineral spirits to clean the pipe throughout the extruding process. Depending on the specifications of the final product, the pipe may then be heated in an annealing furnace to soften it. Finally, copper pipe for certain end uses is cleaned in a vapor degreaser, utilizing n-propyl bromide. When the degreaser is not is use, the n-propyl bromide is cooled for storage to minimize vaporization.

Staff Interview: The facility stopped smelting copper in 1999 and stopped melting copper in 2003. Trichloroethylene was replaced with n-propyl bromide in 2009. Increased VOC emissions reported in 2014 are attributed to repainting the facility. Cerro Flow provided EPA with operating data for the degreaser. The chiller for the degreaser operates with a 330 pound charge of R-22.

TOUR INFORMATION

EPA toured the facility: Yes

Data Collected and Observations:
EPA walked the facility and observed the process from heating of the copper ingots to extrusion pressing, pulling, annealing, degreasing and storage.

Photos and/or Videos: were not taken during the inspection.

Field Measurements: were not taken during this inspection.

CLOSING CONFERENCE

Requested documents:

- Repair records for the chillers

SIGNATURES

Report Author: Karina Kim Date: 1-16 20

Section Chief: Natalie M. [signature] Date: 1/17/2020